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LETTER DATED 6 MAY 1998 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

During the informal discussions in the Security Council on 27 April, the issue of the status of the report called for in paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1137 (1997) was raised by some delegations.

Paragraph 6 of resolution 1137 (1997) specifies that the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5 of that resolution shall terminate one day after the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission reports to the Council that Iraq is "allowing the Special Commission inspection teams immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation ... as well as to officials and other persons ... whom the Commission wishes to interview ...".

Pursuant to the responsibility assigned to me under paragraph 6 of resolution 1137 (1997), I have studied the facts in each case and present to the Council the following report. This report covers the period since the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary-General and the Government of Iraq of 23 February 1998.

1. Iraq has granted unrestricted and unconditional access to all those sites that the Commission has wished to inspect, including sites designated by Iraq as "sensitive" and "presidential".

2. Iraq has also granted the Commission unrestricted access to various equipment the Commission wished to inspect during that period of time.

3. Iraq has not yet provided access to records which had been requested previously by the Commission and the issue of access to means of transportation and to officials the Commission wishes to interview has not arisen.

I hope that the Government of Iraq will provide the requested records.

Under these circumstances, I am of the view that the requirements of paragraph 6 of resolution 1137 (1997) are, at present, sufficiently implemented to allow for the termination of the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 5 of that resolution.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER